

Initial Claims - February 2004

There were 7,669 initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance Benefits in February 2004; a decrease of 665 (8.0%) claims from the 8,334 claims filed in February 2003. The estimated number of layoffs prevented as a result of Rhode Island's Workshare Program, numbered 95 down from 113 in February 2003.

The Mass Layoff Statistic's Program identified 7,753 claims, filed by employees of some 2,835 firms due to a total lack of work. There were 61 potential Mass Layoff events identified this month. A Mass Layoff event involves firms having a layoff of twelve or more people. Some events were a direct result of layoffs due to the February school vacation and were temporary.

February Initial Claims By Major Industry Division

Industry	Claims	Percent
Total, All Industries	7,753	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	97	1.3%
Mining	15	0.2%
Construction	1,000	12.9%
Manufacturing	919	11.9%
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	1,151	14.8%
Wholesale Trade	219	2.8%
Retail Trade	1,272	16.4%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	196	2.5%
Services	1,375	17.7%
Government	179	2.3%
Not Classified	1,330	17.2%

Employees in the Services sector filed 1,375 initial claims accounting for 17.7 percent of the initial claims filed in February. Business Services (363) and Health Services (288) accounted for nearly half of the layoffs associated with Service sector employees. This sector's layoffs were mainly due to seasonal layoffs and school vacation.

Employees of Rhode Island manufacturing companies filed a total of 919 initial claims, accounting for nearly 12 percent of the February claims. Within the Manufacturing sector, Miscellaneous Manufacturing which includes the Jewelry industry accounted for the most layoffs (322), followed by Fabricated Metal Products (113), and Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment and Components (58). Last February there were 1,035 initial claims filed by individuals with an attachment to the manufacturing sector. Claims in this sector are down (116) over the year. Slack work is the primary reason given for layoffs in this sector.

Retail Trade workers filed 1,272 initial claims representing 16.4 percent of the month's initial claims. More than half of the claims filed by Retail Trade employees, were from Eating and Drinking Places (749) and Miscellaneous Retail (167).

Lastly, initial claims filed by Construction workers numbered 1,000 representing 12.9 percent of the initial claims filed for the month.

February 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Total	7,753	100%
Agriculture	97	1.3%
01 Agricultural Production - Crops	19	0.2%
02 Agricultural Production - Livestock	1	0.0%
07 Agricultural Services	72	0.9%
09 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	5	0.1%
Mining	15	0.2%
14 Mining & Quarrying of Nonmetallic Minerals	15	0.2%
Construction	1,000	12.9%
15 Building - General & Operative	188	2.4%
16 General Contractors	153	2.0%
17 Special Trade Contractors	659	8.5%
Manufacturing	919	11.9%
20 Food & Kindred Products	19	0.2%
22 Textile Mill Products	49	0.6%
23 Apparel & Other finished Fabric	15	0.2%
24 Lumber & Wood Products	27	0.3%
25 Furniture & Fixtures	27	0.3%
26 Paper & Allied Products	25	0.3%
27 Printing, Publishing & Related Industries	31	0.4%
28 Chemicals & Allied Products	36	0.5%
29 Petroleum Refining	3	0.0%
30 Rubber & Miscellaneous Products	26	0.3%
31 Leather & Leather Products	1	0.0%
32 Stone, Clay ,Glass & Concrete Products	34	0.4%
33 Primary Metal Industry	30	0.4%
34 Fabricated Metal Products	113	1.5%
35 Machinery (except electrical)	43	0.6%
36 Electric & Electronic Machinery	58	0.7%
37 Transportation Equipment	30	0.4%
38 Instruments	30	0.4%
39 Miscellaneous Manufacturing	322	4.2%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	1,151	14.8%
41 Local & Suburban Passenger Transportation	945	12.2%
42 Motor Freight Transportation	131	1.7%
44 Water Transportation	28	0.4%
45 Air Transportation	8	0.1%
47 Transportation Services	7	0.1%
48 Communication	24	0.3%
49 Electric, Gas , Sanitary Services	8	0.1%
Wholesale Trade	219	2.8%
50 Wholesale -Durable Goods	118	1.5%
51 Wholesale -Nondurable Goods	101	1.3%
Retail Trade	1,272	16.4%
52 Building Materials	29	0.4%
53 General Merchandise Stores	63	0.8%
54 Food Stores	106	1.4%
55 Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	74	1.0%
56 Apparel & Accessory Stores	41	0.5%
57 Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	43	0.6%
58 Eating & Drinking Places	749	9.7%
59 Miscellaneous Retail	167	2.2%

February 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	196	2.5%
60 Banking	62	0.8%
61 Credit Agencies	31	0.4%
62 Security & Commodity Brokers, Dealers	5	0.1%
63 Insurance	32	0.4%
64 Insurance agents, Brokers & Services	19	0.2%
65 Real Estate	43	0.6%
67 Holding & Other Investment Companies	4	0.1%
Services	1,375	17.7%
70 Hotels & Lodging Places	54	0.7%
72 Personal Services	52	0.7%
73 Business Services	363	4.7%
75 Automotive Repair Services	57	0.7%
76 Miscellaneous Services	20	0.3%
78 Motion Pictures	5	0.1%
79 Amusement & Recreation Services	80	1.0%
80 Health Services	288	3.7%
81 Legal Services	22	0.3%
82 Education Services	67	0.9%
83 Social Services	164	2.1%
84 Museums & Art Galleries, Botanical & Zoological Gardens	20	0.3%
86 Membership Organizations	71	0.9%
87 Engineering, Accounting & Research	104	1.3%
88 Private Households	8	0.1%
Government	179	2.3%
No Industry Assigned	1,330	17.2%